

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O 131313Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5888

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T ADDIS ABABA 9772

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PINS ET

SUBJ: CISCO TWO: INTERVIEW WITH AMERICAN PRISONERS

REF: A. BEIRUT 10283, B. KHARTOUM 1878

1. TWO REFTELS TAKEN TOGETHER SEEM TO CONFIRM THAT CISCO TWO ARE IN PLF REPEAT PLF HANDS, A POINT THAT HAS NOT BEEN CLEAR BEFORE. SUGGEST WASHINGTON AGENCIES SHOULD NOW CONSIDER BEST WAYS OF GETTING PLF LEADER OSMAN SALEH SABBEH TO CARRY OUT HIS ANNOUNCED INTENTION OF OBTAINING RELEASE OF CISCO TWO. WE NOW KNOW, AND HOPEFULLY OSMAN DOES ALSO, THAT RELEASE DOES NOT HAVE TO BE NEGOTIATED BETWEEN PLF AND ELF BUT COULD BE UNILATERAL PLF DECISION.

2. EMBASSY NEEDS URGENT GUIDANCE ON WHETHER TO INFORM EPMG OF WHAT WE KNOW, AND IF SO HOW MUCH TO SAY. FACT THAT PUBLICITY OF INTERVIEW IS IMMINENT MAKES GUIDANCE URGENT. RECOMMEND THAT AT MINIMUM WE BE AUTHORIZED TO SAY TO EPMG THAT WE HAVE RELIABLE REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE ETHIOPIA THAT UNNAMED NON-AMERICAN NEWSMEN HAVE INTERVIEWED CISCO TWO; THAT WE HAVE NO INFO ABOUT ONE INTERVIEW, BUT IN THE OTHER, STATEMENTS ARE NON-POLITICAL AND SOLELY RELATED TO THEIR DUTIES AT KAGNEW; AND THAT THEY ARE IN HANDS OF PLF, NOT ELF. THE MORE WE CAN BE AUTHORIZED TO TELL EPMG THE BETTER OUR CHANCES OF GETTING FUTURE EPMG COOPERATION THAT MAY BE NECESSARY, AND THE BETTER WE CAN FEND OFF ANY LATER

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CHALLENGES TO CONTINUED TENURE OF KAGNEW.

3. SUGGEST EMBASSY KHARTOUM MIGHT, AT ITS DISCRETION, ASK BITTERLIN
FOR ANY FURTHER INFO HE MAY HAVE ON CIRCUMSTANCES OF CAPTURE, PLANS
FOR RELEASE, ETC.
HUMMEL

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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